

No. XVIII.—NEW FISHES FROM ALDABRA AND ASSUMPTION, COLLECTED  
BY MR J. C. F. FRYER.

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(COMMUNICATED BY PROF. J. STANLEY GARDINER, M.A., F.R.S., F.L.S.)

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A SMALL collection of fishes from the Indian Ocean made by Mr J. C. F. Fryer and sent to me for determination by Professor Stanley Gardiner, includes examples of three species apparently new to science, including a new eel of some interest, as although it seems to be an Anguillid in most of its characters, it has the branchial openings into the pharynx small, as in the Murænidæ.

Family **Anguillidæ**.

**XENOCONGER**, gen. nov.

Body elongate, naked; dorsal and anal fins well developed, confluent with the reduced caudal; no pectorals or ventrals. Snout broad and flat; nostrils lateral, the anterior with a short tube. Mouth terminal, moderately wide; maxillary ending just behind eye, not extending to angle of mouth. Teeth pointed, conical or slightly compressed, forming broad bands in the lower jaw; maxillary teeth biserial; vomerine teeth a rounded patch continued backwards as a pair of curved bands, each of a smaller outer and larger inner series.

Palato-pterygoids present, anteriorly embracing the vomer; lower pharyngeals convergent anteriorly, not separating the other branchial arches; tongue not free; branchial openings into the pharynx small; external branchial apertures lateral, of moderate size.

Apparently nearest to *Nettastoma* and its allies, but differing widely in the short snout and restricted inner branchial apertures.

1. *Xenoconger fryeri*, sp. n.

Tail nearly twice as long as rest of fish; head about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the length from gill-opening to vent; head as broad as deep, its depth less than  $\frac{1}{3}$  its length; snout rounded anteriorly, slightly broader than long, its length nearly  $\frac{1}{4}$  the length of head and 3 times the diameter of eye. Jaws equal anteriorly; cleft of mouth horizontal, extending behind eye a distance equal to the diameter of the latter. Anterior nostril near end of snout; posterior in front of lower part of eye. Dorsal commencing at a distance from the gill-opening equal to  $\frac{3}{4}$  the length of head. Brownish, spotted or marbled with blackish.

A single specimen, 400 mm. in total length, from Assumption Island. Mr Fryer captured it in a large pit in the rock, about 10 yards square and 10 to 15 feet deep, which was apparently cut off from the sea although it was nearly full of sea-water.

Family **Gobiidæ**.

## PARIOGLOSSUS, gen. nov.

Head and body strongly compressed; head naked; body covered with small scales. Mouth terminal, protractile, very oblique; præmaxillaries with 6 canines, and with an inner series of smaller teeth; lower jaw with 4 or 5 canines on each side of the symphysis, and with the lateral teeth smaller, uniserial. Gill-opening vertical, in front of base of pectoral fin, not produced forward below. Two dorsals, the first of 6 spines, the second of 16 or 17 rays; anal of a feeble spine and 15 soft rays; pelvics close together but separate, each of a spine and 4 soft rays.

In the length of the second dorsal and anal fins this genus is intermediate between *Allogobius*, Waite, 1904 and the other Gobiid genera with only 4 soft rays in the pelvic fin. *Allogobius* has large scales, 10 soft rays in the second dorsal and 8 in the anal, the head only slightly compressed, and the mouth not very oblique. *Ioglossus*, Bean, 1882, is nearer *Parioglossus*, but seems to differ in the wider gill-openings; it has 22 to 24 rays in the soft dorsal. *Vircosa*, Jord. and Snyder, 1901, has a mental barbel, and *Oxymepoton*, Bleek. and *Orthostomus*, Kner, are distinguished by having at least 30 rays in the soft dorsal and anal.

2. *Parioglossus tæniatus*, sp. n.

Depth of body 6 in the length, length of head 5. Snout very short; mouth nearly vertical, the articulation of lower jaw below the anterior margin of eye; diameter of eye about  $\frac{2}{5}$  length of head. A dark band from eye to end of caudal fin; dorsals and upper edge of caudal dusky.

Two examples, 25 and 30 mm. in total length, from the Pacard Lagoon, Aldabra. The larger, probably a male, has the anal fin dark-edged and the dorsal fins higher, with the rays more or less produced.

Family **Blenniidæ**.3. *Salarias aldabrensis*, sp. n.

Depth of body less than length of head, 6 to  $6\frac{1}{2}$  in the length of the fish. Anterior profile somewhat convex, nearly vertical; mouth subterminal; lower jaw with a pair of canines; a short fringed tentacle above the eye. Dorsal xiii—xiv 21—23, low, notched, not continuous with the caudal. Anal 28, long and low. Body pale, with several pairs of violet cross-bars; fins pale, the spinous dorsal dark-edged.

Three specimens, 30 to 35 mm. in total length, from Dunes de Maistre, Aldabra. These fishes "sit on the rocks at low tide."